

Washam
Craigh

DAFC - OJAU
Copy 2 of 7

8 May 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing of Detachment A Contractor Personnel

25X1 1. On 27 April 1956 as a portion of the [redacted] contractor personnel [redacted] were briefed by the undersigned as to Agency sponsorship of this Project and its mission.

25X1 2. All contractor personnel gathered in the base theater at [redacted] and following a roll call contractor personnel were asked to take a solemn vow of secrecy as to the information which was about to be furnished them. In addition, all contractor personnel were asked to sign a formal memorandum of understanding as to their responsibilities in the protection of classified information of vital interest to the United States Government. Following this the writer revealed the fact that the Central Intelligence Agency is the sponsor of Project activities and that the true mission of the Project was the overflight of the Soviet Union and Satellites for reconnaissance purposes. A thorough explanation was given as to the security precautions taken to date including statements concerning the policy of strict need to know. It was emphasized that each individual has now become knowledgeable of one of their country's most closely held secrets and a violation of this trust would subject them to the US Espionage Laws as applicable. Instructions were given to the group that under no circumstances would they be permitted to discuss Project information with friends, associates, or relatives nor were they in any way permitted to place themselves in a position of being associated with a program of this type. It was pointed out that as a portion of Project planning certain information would be publically released as a matter of cover for the true operation, however, at such time they would not be permitted to reveal any information which they might have in their possession. Such releases would not relieve them of any obligation to maintain security of the Project, or any of its component parts including the vehicle and other equipment.

3. The group was queried as to their thorough understanding of statements made during this briefing to which all gave an affirmative reply.

[redacted]

4. The group was advised that they had now become a vital part of the program and that security was now their individual responsibility. That with such information at their disposal it was now exceedingly important that their personal conduct should be above reproach at all times so as not to bring embarrassment to the program's Government organizations or their parent companies. The slightest case of embarrassment may cause them to be susceptible to black mail and become a target for penetration by the opposition. All individuals were warned that conversation concerning Project activities or the products involved should not be held in public places or within hearing distance of unwitting individuals. The fact that they will be working and living as guests on an Air Force Base and completely surrounded by persons not knowledgeable of the program makes this factor an exceedingly important one and extreme caution against loose discussions should be exercised by all concerned.

5. It is the opinion of the undersigned that all contractor personnel were duly impressed by the warnings given them and several expressed the feeling that they were extremely grateful for being permitted to participate in a program having such vital importance. Upon leaving the briefing area personnel individually assured the writer that the personal confidence placed with them would not be violated and that every effort would be made to control any loose talk of other individuals. All memoranda of understanding obtained in this instance have been forwarded to the Security Office and will be filed in the individual contractor employee files for permanent retention.

6. As an added precautionary measure the undersigned will initiate a notification to the Security Officer to conduct periodic briefings of contractor personnel highlighting the need for continued security with regard to Project activities. Such notification will be forwarded prior to the final deployment of personnel.

Assistant Project Security Officer

DMA:aml (8 May 1956)

- 1 - Admin
- 2 - Pers
- 3 - Proj Chrono
- 4 - Proj Reading
- 5 - SO Subject
- 6 - SO Reading
- 7 - SO (I Bldg)